

**REMARKS**

Claims 13 and 17 have been canceled without prejudice in response to the Restriction Requirement. Claim 1-12 and 14-16 are currently pending. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced in this amendment.

**Restriction Requirement**

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the application contains inventions “which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1,” and requested that one of the following groups be elected:

Group I, claims 1-12 and 14-16, drawn to an oligoribonucleotide or peptide nucleic acid, which binds to the RNA of hepatitis C virus (HCV), and vectors and therapeutic agents thereof; or

Group II, claims 13 and 17, drawn to a method of inhibiting HCV replication ability using the oligoribonucleotide or peptide nucleic acid of claims 1 and 9.

In response, Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, Group I, claims 1-12 and 14-16, drawn to an oligoribonucleotide or peptide nucleic acid, which binds to the RNA of hepatitis C virus (HCV), and vectors and therapeutic agents thereof.

**Election Requirement**

In the Office Action, the Examiner requested that Applicants elect a single sequence for prosecution on the merits.

In response, Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID No. 23 for prosecution on the merits.

**Conclusion**

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
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